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SEP 1 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary  
National Security Council

SUBJECT : Documents Relating to Survey of NIE Use

Here are the documents I mentioned to you on the NIE Survey of 1954-55, which may be of use in planning any survey of the use of NSC papers. I would stress two lessons learned in the course of the Survey, which I initiated but which turned out a bit of a disappointment. First a survey of formal dissemination alone is not enough; the question is not to whose offices the documents go but whether they are actually read by the occupant and what use is made of them. Second, these facts cannot be determined by written questionnaires or queries, which beget stereotyped, bureaucratic replies of little value. We settled on the interview method; since one can't interview everybody we selected a representative sample. I'd hazard that three or four NSC Staff members could easily handle 20-40 interviews spread out over a two month period.

Would you please return these papers whenever they have served their purpose. Some of them are file copies.

R. W. KOHLER  
Board Assistant

SEP 2 1955